



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 14, 2013

Mr. Tim Carter
Kaufman Trailers, Inc.
702 North Silver Street
Lexington, NC 27292

NVS-215KS
13V-351

Subject: Kingpin may Fail Allowing Trailer to Separate

Dear Mr. Carter:

This letter serves to acknowledge Kaufman Trailers, Inc.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:
KAUFMAN/TRAILER/2012-2013

Mfr's Report Date: August 7, 2013

NHTSA Campaign Number: 13V-351

Components:
TRAILER HITCHES

Potential Number of Units Affected: 269

Problem Description:

Kaufman trailers is recalling certain model year 2012-2013 gooseneck auto transport trailers manufactured June 26, through August 6, 2013. These trailers are equipped with kingpins attached to square bottom plates which may crack over time, causing the button to separate from the bottom plate.

Consequence:

If the kingpin button separates, the trailer could become detached from the towing vehicle increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Kaufman will notify owners instructing them to inspect their trailers for kingpins with square bottom plates. Kaufman will ship replacement kingpins to owners of affected trailers, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin in August 2013. Owners may contact Kaufman at 1-336-790-6800.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.



We have received Kaufman's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at kelly.schuler@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Timian", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement